



October 7, 2008

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Board of Supervisors

Dear Supervisors:

Michael D. Antonovich  
Yvonne B. Burke  
Don Knabe  
Gloria Molina  
Zev Yaroslavsky

**RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING  
49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

Commissioners

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Betty Haagen  
President

Araceli Ruano  
Vice President

Ronald D. Rosen  
Secretary

Ollie Blanning  
Executive Committee

Rosalind Wyman  
Immediate Past President

Carlos C. Barrón  
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Peter Lesnik

Marjorie S. Lyte  
Hope Warschaw

Laura Zucker  
Executive Director

1. Approve the proposed 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration program to be held Wednesday, December 24, 2008 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and authorize the Executive Director to make changes in programming that may be necessary due to production requirements.
2. Direct the Executive Director to implement all production aspects of the live and televised programs and to sign the necessary agreements with KCET-TV, CDK Productions, and others as necessary.
3. Direct Five Star Parking to make free parking available to participants and attendees in the Music Center garage all day on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Lot 17 should also be available to accommodate any overflow. Appropriate signage regarding free parking should be posted at all entrances to the Music Center garage. Free parking is also needed in the Music Center garage for cast and crew during rehearsals from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and equipment load-in throughout the week of December 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00 a.m. to midnight, as well as during load-out for crew, approximately December 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>.

4. Request the Music Center to make arrangements with the Music Center caterer to insure that Kendall's Brasserie and the Spotlight Café will be open for business throughout the duration of the program, and that any food/beverage items sold in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion be appropriate in cost and menu for the anticipated audience.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

The first annual holiday program was held on December 24, 1959 and has been an ongoing community tradition for the past 48 years.

At their meeting on September 8, 2008, the Arts Commissioners unanimously approved the proposed roster of participants. The proposed roster (Attachment A) is presented to your Board each year in compliance with a motion approved by your Board on July 12, 1983. Approval at this time is necessary to complete the program production.

Performers are selected through a competitive application process. This year there were 105 applications submitted. The proposed program features 46 performing groups, 40% of them on the program for the first time, and 30% youth groups. Altogether, this year's program will feature over 1,000 performers.

Selection criteria is based upon:

- Artistic excellence within a performance discipline/age category
- Suitability of the performance materials to a multi-cultural, multi-denominational holiday themed program
- Suitability of the performance for the 2,600 seat Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and the technical capability of the production
- Ability of performing group representatives to meet all deadlines and to work cooperatively with other organizations and production staff

The live audience for the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Celebration last year was 9,582 attendees and the broadcast ratings for KCET indicated that at peak viewing times approximately 1.2 million households were tuning into the show.

Highlights from the 2007 production have been edited into a one-hour national broadcast that will air in December on PBS. Last year the show aired a total of 393 times across the country and in seven of the nation's top ten markets. Also, 59% of PBS member stations broadcast the show, representing 71% of the national broadcast market.

The 2008 national PBS broadcast has been approved and this is the first year that the program will be aired via two hard feeds (instead of just one) scheduled for December 17 and 24, 2008 at 10:00 p.m. As a hard feed, the broadcast is almost certain to be carried by subscribing member stations as it is delivered to them as part of their PBS package of programming. As a soft feed, stations can elect to carry the broadcast and determine the time slot in which it airs as it suits their schedules. The Holiday Celebration will also be offered by soft feed as a pre-assembled package of several hours of holiday programming for Christmas Day, so it is likely to air in many markets across the country several times. This year's soft feed will be made available to PBS stations approximately one week before the date of the first hard feed airing.

This is the second year that the national program will be available in high-definition format. It is the third year that the national program is supported by an official PBS.org website which provides additional information about the artists featured on the national broadcast as well as additional performances from the live program.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence, as the program will provide the public with free access to high quality cultural performances.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

Funds to produce the program have been approved by your Board as part of the Arts Commission's budget appropriation for FY 08-09, which includes an appropriation from the Cable TV Franchise Fund in the amount of \$449,000. Additionally, the Music Center contributes \$15,000 to the program and there is no fee for the use of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The American Federation of Television & Radio Artists waives 20% of the professional singers' and dancers' day rate and the International Association of Technical & Stage Employees and Professional Musicians Local 47 waive fees for the KCET broadcast on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

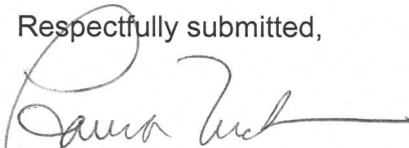
**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/ LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Not applicable.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):**

Approval of this program continues a time-honored Los Angeles County tradition that brings our diverse communities together through a common experience. Whether viewing the production in person or on television, the program creates a sense of inter-connectivity by giving residents a kaleidoscopic view of the whole.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Zucker  
Executive Director

Attachments (1)

cc: Lawrence Green, County Counsel  
Steven Rountree, President & CEO, Music Center of Los Angeles County  
Jesse Rodriguez, Building Manager  
Nick Chico, Section Manager, Five Star Parking

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION**  
**PROPOSED 2008 49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
**HOLIDAY CELEBRATION ARTISTS**

\*indicates groups new to the *Holiday Celebration* program this year.

**Activities for Retarded Children and Adults (ARC) Handbell Choir**, which has become an audience favorite and is featured in the 2008 national broadcast, returns to this year's local program with holiday repertoire. (Officed in District: 3, District/s Served: 3)

**Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers**, created to draw attention to the work of African-American composers and musical traditions, will present a selection of spiritual holiday arrangements. (Officed in District: 4, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Antics Peformances\*** will debut on the show this year with a hip hop interpretation of the battle scene from *The Nutcracker*. (Officed in District: 1, District/s Served: 1)

**BackhausDance\*** will present a contemporary rendition of the snow scene from *The Nutcracker*. (Officed in District: 4, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**blue13 Dance Company\***, a bollywood-style dance ensemble, will present a bollywood interpretation of a scene from *The Nutcracker*. (Officed in District: 3, District/s Served: 3)

**Burbank Chorale**, founded in 1920 and the longest continuously performing arts organization in the San Fernando Valley, will return to *Holiday Celebration* featuring 40 voices singing classical choral selections. (Officed in District: 5, District/s Served: 5)

**Celebration Entertainment Academy, Inc.**, made up of 24 youth vocalists and musicians ages 14-24, will perform a selection of traditional and African holiday arrangements. (Officed in District : 5, District/s Served: 5)

**Celtic Spring** is an Irish music and dance group that has been featured on various television specials. They will bring traditional Irish music and dance to the program. (Officed in District: 5, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Colburn Children's Choir**, a vocal ensemble of the Colburn School of Performing Arts, is featured of the 2008 national broadcast and will return to *Holiday Celebration* with traditional holiday arrangements. (Officed in District: 1, District/s Served: 1)

**Dengue Fever\***, a modern rock band that integrates Cambodian rhythms and lyrics, will debut on the show. (Officed in District: n/a, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**DreamDance Foundation\*** will debut on the program with a contemporary interpretation of a classical Chinese Han dance titled *Ladies in the Rain*. (Officed in District: 5, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**F.A.M.E. Choir\*** will debut on *Holiday Celebration* with a selection of gospel holiday songs. (Officed in District: 2, District/s Served: 2)

**Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles**, featured on the 2008 national broadcast, will return to this year's program with holiday repertoire. (Officed in District: 3, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company** will present 20 members of their company performing dances from the state of Sinaloa, Mexico. (Officed in District: 2, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Gwen Wyatt Chorale**, a 45-member group of vocalists from throughout Southern California, will present a *The Gospel Plow*, an arrangement including brass and percussion accompaniment. (Officed in District: 2, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Inspirational Voices of Free!**, founded in 2001, will sing a selection of traditional Gospel arrangements. (Officed in District: 4, District/s Served: 3)

**Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble** features 12 to 18 year old handbell musicians and will return to *Holiday Celebration* to perform *Cosmic Dance*. (Officed in District: 5, District/s Served: 5)

**Harmonies Girls Choir** consists of 26 vocalists ranging from ages 8 to 20, most coming from Latin American immigrant families. They will sing a selection of sacred music in Latin. (Officed in District: 1, District/s Served: 1)

**I.E. Generation\***, a 12-member gospel choir, will present an urban contemporary arrangement of *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*. (Officed in District: 2, District/s Served: 2)

**JazzAntiqua Music and Dance Ensemble** are featured on the 2008 national broadcast and will return to *Holiday Celebration* to dance to *Sleigh Ride* arranged by jazz composer Duke Pearson. (Officed in District: 2, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Jubilant Voices of Holman United Methodist Church** will sing a selection of holiday gospel songs. (Officed in District: 2, District/s Served: 2)

**Klezmer Juice**, an ensemble of musicians from diverse backgrounds, will return to *Holiday Celebration* with selections that blend traditional Klezmer and Yiddish soul with Latin rhythms. (Officed in District: 4, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Lisa Haley and the Zydekats\***, a Grammy-nominated Cajun music group, will perform traditional and contemporary Americana/Cajun/Zydeco arrangements. (Officed in District: 2, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Los Angeles Master Chorale**, winners of the prestigious ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming, is featured on the national broadcast and returns to the program with a diverse selection of holiday music. (Officed in District: 1, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Los Pinguos**, an Argentinian acoustic ensemble, is featured on the 2008 national show and will return to the *Holiday Celebration* with a new selection of music. (Officed in District: 3, District/s Served: 3)

**Louie Cruz Beltran\*** blends Latin and Afro Cuban rhythms with jazz and R&B. They will perform upbeat arrangements of traditional Christmas carols. (Officed in District: 3, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Loyola High School of Los Angeles Choir\***, an all-boys youth choir, will perform a new holiday work by composer Angel Lam. (Officed in District: 2, District/s Served: 2)

**Mariachi and Folklorico Cielo Nuevo** is a 30-member youth dance ensemble founded in 2005. They will present music and dance from the Mexican state of Zacatecas. (Officed in District: 1, District/s Served: 1)

**Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez**, the first mariachi ensemble to be nominated for a Grammy and featured on the 2008 national broadcast, will perform a mariachi arrangement of *Ave Maria*. (Officed in District: 1, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Motion Tribe\***, an aerial dance company, will debut on the show with a solo performance blending aerial dance and ballet. (Officed in District: 4, District/s Served: 4)

**Namaste Women's Choir**, a 16 voice ensemble, will return to *Holiday Celebration* with a selection of traditional Hebrew and Latvian carols. (Officed in District: 3, District/s Served: 3)

**New Universe Entertainment Academy\*** will premier on *Holiday Celebration* with a traditional Tibetan dance. (Officed in District: 5, District/s Served: 5)

**Opera California**, a Korean-American youth choir of more than 80 voices with a live band, will return to the program with a selection of songs from Handel's *Messiah* sung in English and Korean. (Officed in District: 2, District/s Served: 2)

**Palmdale High School Choral Union**, thirty singers from the Antelope Valley, return this year to perform an arrangement of seasonal works led by choral director Michael McCullough. (Officed in District: 5, District/s Served: 5)

**Philippine Chamber Singers of Los Angeles\*** will debut on *Holiday Celebration* with a selection of traditional Philippine songs performed in English and Tagalog. (Officed in District: 3, District/s Served: 3)



**Retter's Academy of Dance\*** will perform on *Holiday Celebration* for the first time with a modern dance piece entitled *Arabia*. (Officed in District: 1, District/s Served: 1)

**Royal Crown Revue\***, a locally based, nationally recognized swing band, will perform a selection of fun holiday swing music. (Officed in District: n/a, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Salvation Army Tabernacle Children's Chorus**, the largest and youngest choir on the program, is known for their "choralography" and light-hearted holiday songs. (Officed in District: 5, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Showtime Katusha**, a Russian dance ensemble of children age 7 to 9, returns to the program to perform a traditional dance. (Officed in District: 3, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**South Bay Ballet\*** will bring the Kingdom of the Sweets to life in the *Waltz of the Flowers* from *The Nutcracker*. (Officed in District: 4, District/s Served: 4)

**Stefani Valadez Ensemble** will perform their signature blend of world music infused with Ladino, Turkish, Latin and Middle Eastern rhythms and melodies. Their performance selections will be sung in Ladino (a mixture of Hebrew and ancient Spanish languages). (Officed in District: n/a, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**TAIKOPROJECT\***, the first American taiko group to win first place in a major taiko contest in Japan, will perform their signature contemporary interpretation of Japanese taiko drumming, blending traditional taiko beats with hip hop rhythms and movements. (Officed in District: 1, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**UCC Choir** will return to the program with a lively selection of traditional holiday music. (Officed in District: 2, District/s Served: 2)

**Vox Femina**, an all-women's choral ensemble, will perform a selection of traditional Hanukkah and Spanish carols. (Officed in District: 2, District/s Served: 1,2,3,4,5)

**Welsh Choir of Southern California** will perform a variety of traditional Irish and Welsh Christmas carols. (Officed in District: 4, District/s Served: 4)

**Yeh Dede\*** is a world music fusion ensemble that will present traditional songs from West Africa and South America. (Officed in District:3, District/s Served:3)